UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/212
21 March 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 20 MARCH 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement dated 15 March 1995 of the head of State of the Republic of Georgia, H.E. Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, regarding the escalation of the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mr. Peter CHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative

95-07829 (E) 210395 220395

Annex

Statement dated 15 March 1995 by the head of State of Georgia

Another terrible disaster befell the ethnic Georgian population still remaining in Abkhazia. Between 11 and 14 March 1995, more than 500 boeviks and militiamen led by some leaders of the Abkhaz separatists intruded and burned the Georgian villages of Gali region. According to preliminary data, 24 innocent peaceful inhabitants were executed, over 150 people were captured and many others were tortured, cattle and other property were stolen. This "operation", a new one in a long row of villainous crimes committed by Abkhaz separatists, was characterized by particular brutality and cynicism. Thus, ethnic cleansing and genocide, as the result of which 300,000 civilians have been expelled from Abkhazia and thousands are dead and tortured, is going on.

The negotiations about the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia serve as a cover for separatists.

The numerous groups of international observers are surprisingly indifferent towards the crimes committed. Regretfully, they are not even providing information for the relevant international organizations and their own Governments.

The neutrality of the commanders of Russian peace-keeping forces is inconsistent with their mandate, which has been approved by the heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and which stipulates that the main task of the peace-keeping forces is to create the necessary preconditions for the secure return of refugees and displaced persons.

I wish to warn the Abkhaz separatists: the patience of people is not inexhaustible. The conciliatory position of the United Nations, CIS member States and the Russian peace-keeping forces towards mass crimes and vandalism, genocide and ethnic cleansing committed by the regime of the Abkhaz separatists has its limits.